## 2006

### **Apartment Building AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN** 

**REALTY ADVISORY BOARD** ON LABOR RELATIONS **INCORPORATED** 

AND

**SERVICE EMPLOYEES** INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 32BJ

> **EFFECTIVE APRIL 21, 2006** TO APRIL 20, 2010



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AGREEMENT made as of the 21st day of April, 2006, by and between the REALTY LABOR BOARD ON ADVISORY RELATIONS, INCORPORATED, herein called the "RAB," acting on behalf of various owners of apartment buildings and other employers who become signatory to this agreement, herein severally referred to as "Employer," and the SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION, LOCAL 32BJ, herein referred to as the "Union," acting on behalf of its members and other building service employees to whom this agreement applies and for whom it is the collective bargaining agency.

### **ARTICLE I**

#### Union Recognition and Union Security

1. The Union is recognized as the exclusive collective bargaining representative of all classifications of service employees at each apartment building in New York City, Nassau, Suffolk, Duchess, Sullivan, Putnam, Rockland and Westchester counties in New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, which is committed to this Agreement.

Work performed pursuant to the terms of this collective bargaining agreement shall not be performed by persons not covered by the bargaining agreement except as provided in Article II.

2. This Agreement shall apply to all classifications of service employees employed by the Employer. Article II of this Agreement shall also apply to employees of cleaning and maintenance contractors who employ employees in any building committed to this Agreement working in any job category covered by this Agreement.

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3. There shall be a Union Shop throughout the term of this Agreement in every building where there was a Union Shop under the 2003 Apartment Building Agreement and in other buildings whenever it is agreed or determined that a majority of the employees in such buildings are members of or have applied for membership in the Union.

The "Union Shop" requires membership in the Union by every employee in the building as a condition of employment after the thirtieth day following employment or the execution date of this agreement, whichever is later, or in the case of newly organized buildings, after the thirtieth day following agreement or determination that a majority of the employees in such buildings are members of or have applied for membership in the Union, and requires that the Union shall not ask or require the Employer to discharge or otherwise discriminate against any employee except in compliance with law.

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In the event the Union security provision of this Agreement is held to be invalid, unenforceable or of no legal effect generally or with respect to any building because of interpretation or a change of federal or state statute, city ordinance or rule or decision of any government administrative body, agency or subdivision, the permissible Union security clause under such statute, decision or regulation shall be enforceable as a substitute for the Union security clause provided for herein.

- 4. Whenever the Union files with the RAB and the Employer a claim that a majority of the employees in a building are members of or have made application for membership in the Union, the Union Shop requirement shall be made effective within fifteen (15) days thereafter, unless the Employer or the RAB within ten (10) days, notifies the Union that it requires a determination of that claim.
- 5. Upon receipt by the Employer of a letter from the Union's Secretary-Treasurer requesting any employee's discharge because he/she has not met the requirements of this Article, unless the Employer questions the propriety of so doing, the employee shall be discharged within fifteen (15) days of said notice if prior thereto he/she does not take proper steps to meet said requirements. If the Employer questions the propriety of the discharge, he shall immediately submit the

matter to grievance, and if not thus settled, to the Arbitrator for final determination. If it is finally settled or determined that the employee has not met the said requirements, he shall be discharged within ten (10) days after written notice of the final determination has been given to the RAB and the Employer.

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The Employer shall be responsible for unpaid dues after receipt of notice provided for in this section and exhaustion of contractual remedies. The Employer's obligation shall begin fifteen (15) days after such notice or, if the Employer questions the discharge, after the final determination of the arbitrator.

- 6. The Union will hold the Employer harmless from any liability arising from a discharge asked by the Union pursuant to this Article provided the Employer has done nothing to cause or increase its own liability concerning removal of employees.
- 7. No building service employee may be employed in any building, except within a tenant's apartment, save by the Employer, without the consent of the Union.
- 8. During any period in which it is not established that a majority of the employees in a building are members of, or have made application for membership in the Union, it is agreed that all employees who, upon the date this agreement is signed for their building, are

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members of the Union in good standing in accordance with the Constitution and By-Laws of the Union, and all employees who thereafter become members shall, as a condition of employment, remain Union members in good standing during the life of the agreement.

9. Upon execution of this Agreement the Employer shall furnish the Union and the RAB with a complete list of the names, social security numbers and home addresses and job location of all employees covered by this Agreement and shall notify the Union and the RAB of the names and social security numbers and home addresses and job location of each new employee thereafter employed.

The Employer shall notify the Union and the RAB in writing, as soon as a cancellation of an account becomes effective where Union members are employed and the Employer shall notify the Union when he acquires a new building service job.

10. The Union shall have the right to inspect the Employer's Social Security reports and all payroll records (except the salary of the nonunion Supervisors) in order to determine if this agreement is being complied with. The Union shall have the right to expedited arbitration in the event an Employer fails to comply with this right of inspection. Inspections may also be made by the Union or the Arbitrator at the request of the RAB. The RAB may join the Union at all times, when such examination is made. All Benefit Trust Funds established under this agreement shall have the same right to inspect as the Union but shall also have the right to inspect Supervisor's payroll records where Supervisors are covered by such Funds.

11. Each Employer agrees to deduct the Union's monthly dues, initiation fees, and all legal assessments from the pay of each employee from whom it receives written authorization and will continue to make such deductions while the authorization remains in effect.

The Employer hereby agrees to deduct voluntary political contribution deductions based upon authorizations signed by the employees in accordance with applicable law.

Such deductions will be made from the pay for the first full pay period worked by each employee following the receipt of the authorization, and thereafter will be made the first pay day each month, and forwarded to the Union not later than the twentieth day in each and every current month. Such deductions shall constitute trust funds while in the possession of the Employer.

If the Employer fails to remit to the Union the dues or other monies deducted in accordance

with this section by the twentieth day, the Employer shall pay interest on such dues at the rate of one percent per month beginning on the twenty-first day, unless the Employer can demonstrate the delay was for good cause due to circumstances beyond its control. The interest shall not be assessed for an Employer's initial failure to deduct voluntary political contributions until thirty (30) days after the Employer has received written notice from the Union of its failure to deduct.

If a signatory does not revoke the authorization at the end of a year following the date of authorization, or at the end of the current contract, whichever is earlier, it shall be deemed a renewal of authorization, irrevocable for another year, or until the expiration of the next succeeding contract, whichever is earlier.

The Union agrees to indemnify and save such Employer and the RAB harmless from any liability incurred by reason of such deductions.

12. Nothing in this Article shall be construed as an admission that the Employer or his employees in any particular building are engaged in interstate commerce, in an activity affecting interstate commerce, in the production of goods for interstate commerce, or that any particular building is covered by the provisions of the Labor-Management Relations Act, as amended.

13. In keeping with the extension of Article 1, Section 1, to include New Jersey, Connecticut, Nassau, Suffolk, Duchess, Sullivan, Putnam, Orange, Rockland and Westchester counties in New York and the geographic jurisdiction of the Union, the RAB and the Union will establish a joint industry committee comprised of at least 6 representatives from all sectors of the commercial and residential industry to meet on an ongoing basis, but not less than quarterly. The committee shall review and analyze prevailing market conditions, including wage and rental rates, and develop procedures for resolving union organizational and representation disputes to minimize disruption and conflict, and to promote stable and efficient labor relations and labor conditions.

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# ARTICLE II Coverage of Agreement Sub-Contracting

- 1. The Employer shall not make any agreement or arrangement for the performance of work and/or for the categories of work heretofore performed by employees covered by this agreement except within provisions and limitations set forth below.
- 2. The Employer shall give advance written notice to the RAB and the Union at least three

- (3) weeks prior to the effective date of its contracting for such services, or changing contractors, indicating the name and address of the contractor.
- 3. The Employer shall require the contractor to retain all bargaining unit employees working at the location at the time the contract was awarded and to maintain the existing wage and benefit structure.

The Employer agrees that employees then engaged in the work which is contracted out shall become employees of the initial contractor or any successor contractor, and agrees to employ or re-employ the employees working for the contractor when the contract is terminated or cancelled. This provision shall not be construed to prevent termination of any employee's employment under other provisions of this agreement relating to illness, retirement; resignation, discharge for cause, or layoff by reason of reduction of force; however, a contractor may not reduce force or change the work schedule without first obtaining written consent from the union, which shall not be unreasonably withheld.

If the contractor fails to comply with any agreement with the Union covering the work which was contracted out, the Employer shall be liable severally and jointly with the contractor for any and all damages relating to

unpaid Health, Pension, Training, Legal and SRSP contributions. The Employer's liability shall commence the date it receives written notice from the Union or the RAB of the contractor's failure to so comply.

4. This Article is intended to apply to all employees employed in any building committed to this Agreement and to categories of employees to the extent that such categories of employees are "fairly claimable" by the Union, within existing National Labor Relations Board case law. In the event that the application of this Article, or any part thereof, is held to be in violation of law, then this Article, or any part thereof, shall remain applicable to the extent permitted by law.

# ARTICLE III Wages, Hours & Working Conditions

- 1. The wages, hours, terms and conditions of employment set forth in Article XV of this Agreement are hereby made part hereof.
- 2. Except as otherwise provided herein, the wages set forth in the tables on pages 100-106 shall be effective as of April 21, 2006, and all its other terms and conditions shall become effective on the payroll date nearest to April 21, 2006. As to all buildings later adopting this Agreement, it shall take effect upon acceptance by the Union.

3. No provision of this Agreement shall be construed so as to lower any employee's wage. If employees in any building have in effect a practice of terms or conditions better than those provided for herein, applicable generally to them for wages, hours, sick pay, vacations, holidays, relief periods, jury duty, or group life insurance, such better terms or conditions shall be continued only for employees who have had such conditions. The Arbitrator may relieve the obligations in the preceding sentence if enforcement would work an undue hardship, injustice or inequity upon the Employer.

A change of schedules or duties, so long as required relief and luncheon periods are reasonably spaced, shall not violate this Section, provided the employee, the Union and the RAB are given at least one (1) week's advance written notice and such change is reasonable. The notice for shift changes i.e., change in work hours or days off, shall be three (3) weeks. However, where as of April 21, 2006, an employee (other than a Working Superintendent) regularly received consecutive days off, the practice shall continue, and if any such employee leaves his position for any reason whatsoever, his replacement shall also receive consecutive days off.

### ARTICLE IV Management Rights

- 1. The Union recognizes management's rights to direct and control its policies subject to the obligations of this agreement.
- 2. Employees will cooperate with management within the obligations of this agreement to facilitate efficient building operation.
- 3. Any employee who is discharged shall be furnished a written statement of reason(s) for such discharge no later than five (5) working days after the date of discharge.

If any employee [other than a Working Superintendent covered in Article XVI] is unjustly discharged, the employee shall be reinstated without loss of seniority or rank and without salary reduction. The Joint Industry Grievance Committee or the Arbitrator may determine whether, and to what extent, the employee shall be compensated by the Employer for time lost.

4. In circumstances where the managing agent demands the removal of an employee from further employment in a building, but where there is not cause to terminate the employee, the Union will continue to work with signatory Employers to reach a mutually satisfactory resolution of the dispute, and to that end, will agree, in appropriate

circumstances, to the transfer of the employee in question to another building, within the same county, without loss of pay or benefits.

# ARTICLE V Grievance Procedure

There shall be a Joint Industry Grievance Committee and a grievance procedure:

- 1. To try to decide all issues not covered by, and not inconsistent with, any provision of this agreement and which are not required to be arbitrated under its terms.
- 2. To try to decide without arbitration, any issue between the parties which, under this agreement, they must submit to the Arbitrator.
- 3. The grievance may first be taken up between a representative of management and a representative of the Union. If it is not settled, it may be filed for arbitration.
- 4. All Union claims are brought by the Union alone and no individual shall have the right to compromise or settle any claim without the written permission of the Union.
- 5. Any matter submitted to arbitration shall be simultaneously submitted to Joint Industry Grievance Committee.
- 6. The Committee shall be composed of representatives of the Union and the RAB, who

may be present at any meeting. If the Committee meeting is not held before the arbitration date, the meeting will be cancelled.

It shall be the function of the Committee to seek and encourage the settlement of all disputes brought before it.

7. Any grievance, except as otherwise provided herein and except a grievance involving basic wage violations and Pension, Health, Training, Legal and SRSP contributions shall be presented to the RAB in writing within 120 days of its occurrence, except for grievances involving suspension without pay or discharge which shall be presented within 45 days, unless the Employer agrees to an extension. The Arbitrator shall have the authority to extend the above time limitations for good cause shown.

#### ARTICLE VI Arbitration

1. A Contract Arbitrator shall have the power to decide all differences arising between the parties to this agreement as to interpretation, application or performance of any part of this agreement, and such other issues as are expressly required to be arbitrated before the Arbitrator, including such issues as may be initiated by the Trustees of the Funds.

2. A hearing shall be initially scheduled within two (2) to fifteen (15) working days after either the Union or the RAB has served written notice upon the Office of the Contract Arbitrator, with copy to the other party, of any issue to be submitted. The Arbitrator's oathtaking, and the period, and the requirements for service of notice in the form prescribed by statute are hereby waived. A written award shall be made by the Arbitrator within thirty (30) days after the hearing closes, except in arbitrations involving a superintendent where the Arbitrator shall have ten (10) days to issue an award. If an award is not timely rendered, either the Union or the RAB may demand in writing of the Arbitrator that the award must be made within ten (10) more days. If no decision is rendered within that time, either the Union or the RAB may notify the Arbitrator of the termination of his/her office as to all issues submitted in that proceeding. By mutual consent of the Union and the RAB the time of both the hearing and decision may be extended in a particular case. If a party, after due written notice, defaults in appearing before the Arbitrator, an award may be rendered upon the testimony of the other party.

Upon the joint request of all parties, the Arbitrator shall issue a "bench decision," with written award to follow within the required time period.

No more than one adjournment per party shall be granted by the Arbitrator without consent of the opposing party.

There shall be an expedited arbitration procedure where the contract so provides which shall require the Arbitrator to hear and determine the matter within four (4) weeks after the demand for arbitration is filed.

Due written notice means mailing, telegraphing or hand delivery to the address of the Employer furnished to the Union by the RAB.

In the event that the Union appears at an arbitration without the grievant, the Arbitrator shall conduct the hearing, provided it is not adjourned. The Arbitrator shall decide the case based upon the evidence adduced at the hearing.

3. The procedure herein with respect to matters over which a Contract Arbitrator has jurisdiction shall be the sole and exclusive method for the determination of all such issues, and the Arbitrator shall have the power to award appropriate remedies, the award being final and binding upon the parties and the employee(s) or Employer(s) involved. Nothing herein shall be construed to forbid either party from resorting to court for relief from, or to enforce rights under, any award. In any proceeding to confirm an award of the

Arbitrator, service may be made by registered or certified mail, within or without the State of New York, as the case may be.

- 4. Should either party fail to abide by an arbitration award within two (2) weeks after such award is sent by registered or certified mail to the parties, either party may, in its sole and absolute discretion, take any action necessary to secure such award including but not limited to suits at law. Should either party bring such suit it shall be entitled, if it succeeds, to receive from the other party all expenses for counsel fees and court costs.
- 5. Grievants attending grievances and arbitrations shall be paid for their regularly scheduled hours during such attendance.
- 6. If the Union requires an employee of the building to be a witness at the hearing and the Employer adjourns the hearing, the employee witness shall be paid by the Employer for his regularly scheduled hours during attendance at such hearing. This provision shall be limited to one employee witness.
- 7. The RAB shall be deemed a party to any proceeding under this article.
- 8. The parties have agreed to an Office of the Contract Arbitrator-Building Service Industry. The Union and the RAB have appointed the following Panel of Arbitrators:

John Anner
Stuart Bauchner
Noel Berman
Nicholas Cooney
John Dorsey
Howard C. Edelman

Robert J. Herzog Theodore H. Lang Marilyn M. Levine Randi Lowitt Earl Pfeffer Bernard Young

Upon thirty (30) days written notice to each other, either the Union or the RAB may terminate the services of any Arbitrator on the panel. Successor or additional Arbitrators shall be appointed by mutual agreement of the Union and the RAB. In the event of the removal, death or resignation of all of the Arbitrators, the successors or temporary substitute shall be chosen by the Union and the RAB. If the parties are unable to agree on a successor, then the Chairman of the New York State Employment Relations Board shall appoint a successor after consultation with the parties.

The cost of the Office of the Contract Arbitrator shall be shared in a manner determined by the Union and the RAB.

### ARTICLE VII Reduction of Force

1. The Employer shall have the right to reduce its work force in the following circumstances, provided that it can establish that the changes listed below eliminate an amount of work similar to the proposed reduction in worker hours:

- (a) A change in work specifications or work assignment which results in a reduction of work
- (b) Elimination of all or part of specified work
  - (c) Vacancies in building
  - (d) Reconstruction of all or part of building
  - (e) The tenant performing the work himself
  - (f) Introduction of technological advances
- (g) Change in the nature or type of occupancy
- 2. If the Employer desires to reduce its work force it is required, in addition to their accrued vacation credits and termination pay, if any, to give employees employed for one (1) year or more one (1) week's notice of layoff or discharge, or in lieu thereof, an additional week's pay. The Employer shall give four (4) weeks written notification to the Union and the RAB.

The Employer shall include in such notification the following:

(a) Reason for reduction, specifying whether the reduction is being made pursuant to one or more of the reasons set forth in Section 1 or Section 5 of this Article.

- (b) Notification should include the precise work to be eliminated, setting forth the work hours spent on each task to be eliminated and the change in schedules and duties of remaining employees resulting from the reduction in force.
- (c) If the reduction is due to technological advances, the notice shall describe the technological advance; how it will reduce the work, the number of work hours or reduced work and the change in schedules and duties of remaining employees resulting from the reduction in force.
- (d) If the reduction in force is proposed to be implemented pursuant to Section 5 of this Article, the notice shall so state. It shall include a detailed description of the work being performed by those allegedly working at an unusually slow pace or having idle time; a description of additional work that such employees should be performing within their normal working hours; the proposed reduction of force in work hours; change in schedules and duties of remaining employees resulting from the reduction in force. The notice shall include both present and proposed work specifications and schedules.
- 3. In the event that a reduction in the work force is effected and the reason for the

reduction in the work force ceases to exist, then the Employer shall reinstate the work force that existed prior to the reduction in force.

- 4. If the Union grieves or arbitrates a dispute pursuant to this provision, the following shall apply:
- (a) The arbitration shall be expedited and in no event shall be scheduled and heard later than seven (7) calendar days after the Union's request for arbitration.
- (b) The Employer shall affirmatively demonstrate that it has eliminated an amount of work similar to the reduction in worker hours.
- (c) The arbitrator shall issue an award within seven (7) calendar days after the close of the hearings.
- (d) There shall be no adjournments granted without mutual consent.
- 5. In addition to the reasons provided for in paragraph 1 above, the Employer shall have the right to reduce the work force where in those exceptional cases it can demonstrate to a Special Committee consisting of the President of the Union or his designee and the President of the RAB or his designee, that an employee has idle time or is working at an unusually slow pace. In the event the Employer claims such an

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exceptional case, it shall give the notice required pursuant to this provision and the date required by paragraph 2 hereof.

At the conclusion of the four (4) week notice period provided for in paragraph 2, the matter shall be referred to the Special Committee. Such Committee shall act within four (4) weeks after the Employer has given notice to the Committee. If the Committee deadlocks or if the Committee fails to act within said four (4) week period, the Employer may refer the matter to arbitration pursuant to the arbitration provisions of the contract. The matter shall be heard within four (4) weeks after it is submitted, and a decision shall be rendered within four (4) weeks of the close of the hearing. No adjournments shall be granted without mutual consent.

The Employer may not reduce the work force as proposed prior to the arbitrator's award, provided, however, that if the arbitrator fails to issue his award within the prescribed period, the Employer may reduce the work force as proposed, subject, however, to the ultimate determination of the arbitrator.

6. In the event that the four (4) weeks notice provided for herein is not given and the Employer lays off employees pursuant to this provision, the Employer shall pay an amount equal to the laid off employees' wages and

fringe benefits (including, but not limited to Pension, Health, Training, Legal and SRSP Fund Contributions, Holidays, Vacation, Sick Pay and Premium Pay) for the period beginning with the layoff until four (4) weeks after the Employer notifies the Union or the issuance of a final arbitration award, whichever is sooner, but in no event less than four (4) weeks even if the layoff is upheld by the arbitrator.

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The fact that payment of employees' wages and fringe benefits are provided for herein shall in no way be construed as a limitation of the arbitrator's power and authority under other provisions of this Agreement.

Where an Employer has more than one (1) case under subparagraph 5, in a building, it may consolidate such cases for purposes of proceeding before the Special Committee and/or the Arbitrator.

# ARTICLE VIII No Strikes or Lockouts

1. There shall be no work stoppage, strike, lockout or picketing except as provided in Sections 2, 3, and 4 of this Article. If this provision is violated, the matter may be submitted immediately to the Arbitrator.

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In the event of an alleged violation of this Article, the RAB or the Union may, by telegram, request an immediate arbitration. The Office of the Contract Arbitrator shall schedule a hearing on the alleged violation within 24 hours after receipt of said telegram. The Arbitrator shall issue an award determining whether or not said alleged strike or lockout is in violation of the collective bargaining agreement and award appropriate remedy. This is a procedural provision intended only to bring the arbitration on more quickly.

- 2. If a judgment or Arbitrator's award against the Employer for Health, Pension, Training, Legal and SRSP Fund payments or wages or an award or judgment against a contractor for these or other payments is not complied with within three (3) weeks after such award is sent by registered or certified mail to the Employer or contractor at his last known address, the Union may order a stoppage of work, strike or picketing in the building involved to enforce the award or judgment, and it may also thereby compel payment of lost wages to any employee engaged in such activity. Upon compliance with the award and/or judgment and payment of lost wages, such activity shall cease.
- 3. Except as otherwise provided in this Article, should either party fail to abide by an arbitration award within three (3) weeks after

such award is sent by registered or certified mail to the parties, either party may, in its sole and absolute discretion, bring an action at law to enforce such award. Should either party commence such suit it shall be entitled, if it succeeds, to receive from the other party all reasonable expenses for counsel fees and court costs. Should either party fail to abide by an arbitration award and fail to commence an action in court to vacate such award within three (3) weeks after such award is served as provided above, the aggrieved party shall have the right to strike and compel payment of lost wages to any employee engaged in strike activity or lockout without affecting the other terms and conditions of the Agreement.

- 4. The Union may order a work stoppage, strike or picketing in a building where work previously performed by members of the Union or within the Union's jurisdiction is being performed by persons outside of the bargaining unit anywhere in the building, provided that 72 hours written or telegraphic notice is given to the Employer and the RAB of the Union's intention to do so.
- 5. The Union shall not be held liable for any violation of this Article where it appears that it has taken all reasonable steps to avoid and end the violation.